

Message Text

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ORIGIN NRC-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 EA-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-07
ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08
SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-11 SS-15 SP-02 INRE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIE-00 /140 R

DRAFTED BY USNRC:JDLAFLEUR
APPROVED BY OES/NET/IM: D B HOYLE
EUR/RPE: W SALISBURY (INFO)
EA/RA: F BENNETT (INFO)
ARA/RPP: P OAKLEY (INFO)
NEA/RA: R O PRICKETT
ACDA: R WILLIAMSON (INFO)
-----125809 242337Z /70

O 242218Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL BOMBAY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

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USEEC, USIAEA, USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH,

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF RADIOACTIVITY FROM FORT ST. VRAIN

EMBASSY PLS PASS TO SCICOUNS & SCIATTS

REF: A. A-0043; B. STATE 018209

1. ADDRESSEE MISSIONS REQUESTED TO PASS FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO OFFICIAL NRC CONTACTS AS DESIGNATED IN REF A.

2. SUPPLEMENTING THE INFORMATION PASSED IN REFTTEL B, NRC ISSUED THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT ON JANUARY 24, 1978.

3. THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF HAS RECEIVED PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FROM ITS INSPECTORS AT THE FT. ST. VRAIN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT NEAR PLATTEVILLE, COLORADO, WHERE A RELEASE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL OFFSITE OCCURRED ON JANUARY 23. THREE NRC INSPECTORS ARRIVED ONSITE THE EVENING OF JANUARY 23.

4. PRELIMINARY DATA INDICATE THAT APPROXIMATELY FOUR CURIES OF RADIOACTIVITY WERE RELEASED DURING A PERIOD OF UNCLASSIFIED

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LESS THAN TWO HOURS FOLLOWING THE FAILURE OF A BUFFER SEAL IN THE HELIUM CIRCULATION SYSTEM. A FOUR-CURIE RELEASE WOULD RESULT IN AN ADDITIONAL OFFSITE EXPOSURE OF LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF ANNUAL NATURAL RADIATION BACKGROUND. MEASUREMENTS MADE BY THE LICENSEE AND THE STATE OF COLORADO OFF THE PLANT SITE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE WIND MOVEMENT, THUS FAR HAVE NOT DETECTED RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION OFFSITE.

5. THE PLANT WAS MANNED THROUGHOUT THE RELEASE, ALTHOUGH NONESSENTIAL WORKERS WERE SURVEYED FOR RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION AND RELEASED FROM WORK. APPROXIMATELY 15 ONSITE WORKERS WERE CONTAMINATED WITH RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL. THE CONTAMINATION WAS EASILY REMOVED. PRELIMINARY INFORMATION SHOWS NO OVER-EXPOSURE OF PERSONNEL. HOWEVER, EVALUATION OF EXPOSURES IS CONTINUING. THERE WERE NO INJURIES OR HOSPITALIZATION OF PERSONNEL.

6. THE PLANT IS SHUT DOWN AND REPAIR IS UNDERWAY. NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE OCCURRED. THE FAILURE OF A BUFFER SEAL IN THE HELIUM CIRCULATION SYSTEM RELEASED SMALL QUANTITIES OF HELIUM INTO THE REACTOR BUILDING. THE BUILDING CON-

TINUED TO BE MAINTAINED AT A NEGATIVE PRESSURE AND THE RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL SUBSEQUENTLY WAS DISCHARGED THROUGH FILTERS UP THE STACK. IN THIS REACTOR, HELIUM GAS IS USED AS A COOLANT.

7. BASED ON PRELIMINARY DATA, INITIAL REPORTS FROM THE LICENSEE THE MORNING OF JANUARY 23 INDICATED SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER RELEASES OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL THAN THE FOUR CURIES NOW BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN RELEASED. ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE UTILITY, THE STATE OF COLORADO, AND THE NRC WERE BASED ON THIS CONSERVATIVE PRELIMINARY DATA. END.

8. FOR BONN: IN ADDITION TO OFFICIAL NRC CONTACTS, PLEASE PASS TO BUTZ AND WESTPHAL OF GRS. VANCE
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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR REACTORS, NUCLEAR SAFETY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE019095
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JDLAFLEUR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780036-0445
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780128/aaaaaxbl.tel
Line Count: 136
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e5dca1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NRC
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 18209
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3721449
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RELEASE OF RADIOACTIVITY FROM FORT ST. VRAIN EMBASSY PLS PASS TO SCICOUNS & SCIATTS
TAGS: TECH, US, SZ
To: BERN BOMBAY MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e5dca1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014